

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A conditional vector arithmetic method comprising:

an arithmetic decision step of, when an arithmetic processing target data is obtained in an arithmetic processing step of executing an arithmetic process, computing and deciding in parallel with said computing whether the arithmetic process is to be executed or not; and

an arithmetic control step of, when an arithmetic control is exerted to execute vector arithmetic in the arithmetic processing step, exerting the arithmetic control to execute the arithmetic process for the arithmetic processing target data and output a result of the arithmetic process or output the target data without executing the arithmetic process, according to a decided result in the arithmetic decision step,

wherein N+1-th data is being processed in said arithmetic decision step while N-th data is being processed in said arithmetic control step, said conditional vector arithmetic method thereby enabling conditional arithmetic to be processed by vector arithmetic.

2. (Previously Presented) A conditional vector arithmetic method comprising:

a pipeline processing comprising:

a first stage having a source data supply processing step of starting supply of data in accordance with issuance of a vector arithmetic instruction, and a state flag retain processing step which is executed in parallel with said source data supply processing step, of sequentially retaining a state of a data which is supplied to a prescribed source among the data which are supplied in the source data supply processing, and outputting the state as a state flag;

a second stage having an arithmetic processing step of performing arithmetic using the data which are supplied in the source data supply processing step and outputting an arithmetic result, and a condition decision processing step which is executed in parallel with said arithmetic processing step, of making a condition decision about the state flag using a condition which is issued in accordance with the vector arithmetic instruction, and providing information as to whether

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the condition is satisfied or not to a control processing step;
and

a third stage having an arithmetic result storage processing step of successively storing the arithmetic results which are obtained in the arithmetic processing step, to exert a control for executing a vector arithmetic processing by executing the pipeline processing, and

the control processing step of exerting a control to execute the arithmetic processing when information which is output in the condition decision processing indicates that the condition is satisfied, and output the data which is supplied to the prescribed source among the data which are supplied in the source data supply processing step when it is the arithmetic result of the arithmetic processing when the information indicates that the condition is not satisfied.

3. (Currently Amended) A conditional vector arithmetic unit comprising:

an arithmetic means for executing an arithmetic process;

an arithmetic decision means for, when the arithmetic means obtains an arithmetic processing target data, computing and deciding in parallel with said computing whether the arithmetic process is to be executed or not; and

an arithmetic control means for, when the arithmetic means exerts an arithmetic control to execute vector arithmetic, exerting an arithmetic control to execute the arithmetic process for the arithmetic processing target data and output a result of the arithmetic process or output the data without executing the arithmetic, according to a decided result of the arithmetic decision means, wherein said arithmetic decision means is for processing N+1-th data while said arithmetic control means is for processing N+1-th data, said conditional arithmetic unit thereby enabling the conditional arithmetic to be processed by the vector arithmetic.

4. (Previously Presented) A conditional vector arithmetic unit comprising:

a source data supply means for starting supply of first to N-th source data (N is an integer which is equal to or larger than 2) in accordance with issuance of a vector arithmetic instruction;

first to N-th registers for temporarily retaining the first to N-th source data which are supplied from the source data supply means;

an arithmetic means for performing arithmetic processing using outputs of the first to N-th registers;

a pipeline register for temporarily retaining an arithmetic result which is output by the arithmetic means;

an arithmetic result storage means for successively storing outputs of the pipeline register;

a state flag retain means for sequentially retaining state flag information which indicates a property of a predetermined source data among the first to N-th source data;

a condition decision means for outputting information which indicates whether a condition of the vector arithmetic

instruction is satisfied or not, on the basis of an output of the state flag retain means and condition information which is specified by the vector arithmetic instruction; and

a control means for generating a control signal for executing the vector arithmetic instruction by pipeline processing comprising a first stage in which the source data supply means is for supplying the source data and storing the data in the first to N-th registers and, in parallel therewith, the state flag retain means is for retaining the state flag information and outputting the same, a second stage in which the arithmetic means is for outputting arithmetic processing results of the outputs of the first to N-th registers to the pipeline register and, in parallel therewith, the condition decision means is for outputting the information indicating whether the condition of the vector arithmetic instruction is satisfied or not, and a third stage for storing the outputs of the pipeline register in the arithmetic result storage means, and

generating a mode selection signal for, upon receipt of the information which is output by the condition decision means, outputting a value of the prescribed source data among the first

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to N-th source data when it is the output of the arithmetic means when the condition is not satisfied, and selecting the arithmetic result of the arithmetic means to output the same when the condition is satisfied.